

CD 2001--74



Thursdays at Noon
presents

Kiyoshi Nagata Ensemble

Thursday, October 11
12:10 pm. Walter Hall

Performers

Kiyoshi Nagata, Artistic Director
Katarina Kin
Scott Kusano
Meiko Lydall
Paolo Pietropaolo

Program

Harukoma
Chappa
Uchiwa Daiko
Akikaze
Nebuta Daiko
Jinmyaku
Ogi Matsuri, traditional

All music composed by Kiyoshi Nagata except for *Ogi Matsuri Daiko*

Program Notes

Harukoma (Spring Horses)

During the early winters of Japan, many horses are born and are kept indoors until after New Year. When they take their first steps outdoors, the young horses run wildly about the fields until springtime. This is considered a good omen.

Chappa

The chappa are a pair of small brass hand cymbals used in festivals and for 'kagura' dance accompaniment. In recent years, many new techniques have been developed for the chappa, allowing it to be played as a solo instrument with greater freedom of movement and expression for the player.

Uchiwa Daiko

Uchiwa daiko (literally 'fan drum') is a single headed drum attached to a long wooden handle. They are principally used to accompany chanting in the Nichen sect of Buddhism. This composition explores the various sound possibilities of the uchiwa daiko using a variety of playing techniques and interlocking rhythms.

Akikaze (Autumn Wind)

Every year across Japan, hundreds of festivals or 'matsuri' are held in honour of the autumn harvest season. This piece was inspired by the vivid images of dancing leaves in the swirling winds during these spirited and colourful festivals.

Nebuta Daiko

This style of drumming, where the taiko is worn around the player's shoulder, originates from the Nebuta Festival held in Aomori Prefecture every August. The festival features a series of nighttime parades of enormous paper floats lit from within, depicting legendary figures. The heads of nebuta taiko are made from horsehide instead of the typical cowhide, producing a sharper and dryer sound.

Jinmyaku (Line of Connections)

The rhythms in this piece, as with the rhythms we experience everyday life, are constantly changing. Despite these shifts, there remains an underlying pulse that keeps everything connected.

Ogi Matsuri Daiko (Festival Music from Ogi Town), traditional

Ogi is a small port town located on the southern tip of Sado Island in Niigata Prefecture. The local villagers play this piece throughout Ogi Village every August on taiko placed horizontally on large mobile carts.

Kiyoshi Nagata Ensemble

The Kiyoshi Nagata Ensemble is a five-person taiko (Japanese drum) group based in Toronto, Canada. The ensemble has been active on the concert and music festival scene since making its debut in November 1998 after being selected to perform at the Canada Council for the Art's National Showcase at the DuMaurier Theatre in Toronto.

While firmly rooted in the folk drumming traditions found throughout Japan, the ensemble's principal aim is to rejuvenate and redefine this ancient art form ensuring its relevance in today's society. The ensemble, whose members come from Japanese as well as other backgrounds, has produced challenging and dynamic works that seek to create a new voice for the traditional taiko.